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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**DENISE MORENO DUCHENY**  
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT

IMPERIAL VALLEY OFFICE  
1224 STATE STREET, SUITE D  
EL CENTRO, CA 92243  
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COACHELLA, CA 92236  
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July 6, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to express my support for the Ocean Discovery Institute's proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy requesting \$1 million in funding for its Living Lab facility.

The proposed project would be located in the central San Diego community of City Heights at the gateway of Manzanita Canyon. The area of City Heights is a highly urbanized, high poverty, and nature- and park-deficient community. The project would capitalize on this strategic location, creating a focal point for ocean science education and exploration, scientific research, and environmental appreciation and stewardship. The Living Lab facility would engage the surrounding diverse and underserved community, as well as visitors from throughout the region.

I have faith in the ability of Ocean Discovery Institute to develop and carry out the Living Lab project and I believe that all of the features of the Living Lab facility will be in alignment with the key priorities laid out in Proposition 84. The proposed facility will be a Platinum LEED-certified building and the design will strive to be environmentally sustainable and seamlessly integrated with the natural and cultural environment. It will be a showcase for sustainability and demonstrate how visitors and program participants can replicate these strategies in their homes and work places.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my support for Ocean Discovery Institute's Proposition 84 \$1 million Living Lab facility funding request. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this innovative and educational project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Moreno Ducheny".

DENISE MORENO DUCHENY  
State Senator, 40th District

DMID/jmh

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 09 2010**

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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## California State Senate

SENATOR  
CHRISTINE KEHOE  
THIRTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES:

- APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR
- BANKING, FINANCE AND INSURANCE
- BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
- ENERGY, UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER
- TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

MEMBER

- LEGISLATIVE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS
- LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

May 21, 2010

Mr. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

This letter is in support of the Ocean Discovery Institute's proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy requesting funding for its Living Lab facility project. The project will create a new facility in central San Diego for science and environmental education and serve thousands of schoolchildren each year.

The facility and its surrounding urban canyon complex will also be open to the public and serve as a public resource for learning about the ecosystems of the San Diego region. The urban-natural interface of the facility will increase public awareness on how their activities and actions affect the environment.

This project, to be housed in a Platinum LEED-certified building, exemplifies several of the key priorities of Proposition 84. The Living Lab will showcase the use of efficient and self-sufficient building systems, including solar power, landscaping using native plants, and waste recycling and reuse. Local students and family members will be actively involved in maintaining the facility and assisting in program operations, creating employment opportunities for community residents.

In addition, the project will leverage public funding with a large-scale private fundraising campaign. Ocean Discovery Institute has an extensive donor base and a demonstrated track record in raising funds from private donations and implementing successful programs.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to approve the grant request for the Ocean Discovery Institute's Living Lab.

Sincerely,

  
CHRISTINE KEHOE  
Senator, 39<sup>th</sup> District

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Assembly  
California Legislature



MARY SALAS  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

CHAIR  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEMBER  
HEALTH  
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
THE ECONOMY  
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

May 31, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to express my support for Ocean Discovery Institute's Living Laboratory proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy.

I was excited to learn of Ocean Discovery Institute's plans to create a new learning complex in the community of City Heights – a "Living Lab" – that will be home to the organization's instructional services, youth activities, public programs and staff offices. With this new facility, Ocean Discovery Institute will grow from serving approximately 5,000 young people annually to more than 20,000 San Diego youth per year with science and environmental education programs.

I am also very pleased that this new facility will allow Ocean Discovery Institute to expand the professional development activities it offers for local teachers and to open its doors for use by young people during the critical hours after school and in the evenings.

Please add my name to the list of those who support the Ocean Discovery Institute's Living Laboratory. I believe this project will have a positive, transforming influence on the community of City Heights and the broader San Diego region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Salas".

MARY SALAS  
Assemblymember, 79<sup>th</sup> District



**San Diego Unified**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Board of Education**

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER  
4100 Normal Street, Room 2231, San Diego,  
CA 92103-2682  
Phone: (619) 725-5550 Fax: (619) 297-5624

Richard Barrera  
President

May 14, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing to express my support for Ocean Discovery Institute's application for funding from the California Coastal Conservancy for its Living Laboratory project in San Diego County.

I have had the opportunity to learn about the planned design features for the Living Lab directly from the young people of Ocean Discovery Institute who are involved in designing and developing this project. The Living Lab learning complex will be a youth-driven asset for our community. Ocean Discovery Institute students, lead by a Youth Advisory Council, have been deeply involved in developing the initial vision for the project and in selecting the project site. They will continue to be closely involved in the project's design and implementation, working with the project architect, lead contractors, staff and community volunteers.

The project's design builds upon the extensive body of research that shows that students more effectively learn science when they have access to field learning experiences. Students who are learning about science are more successful if the learning context can connect them physically, intellectually, and perceptually to the natural world. The Living Lab building is intended to be a metaphorical model of a local watershed, supporting and enlivening Ocean Discovery Institute's educational curricula.

I am pleased to endorse this unique project. San Diego Unified School District looks forward to continuing its collaboration with Ocean Discovery Institute as they develop and then relocate to their new Living Laboratory facility.

Sincerely,

Richard Barrera  
President, San Diego Unified School District



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Tim Allen, Executive Director  
City Heights Educational Collaborative  
San Diego State University  
4283 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92105  
Tel: (619) 594-8317  
Fax: (619) 594-8810  
tallen@mail.sdsu.edu

June 17, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing to express my support of Ocean Discovery Institute's proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy requesting funding for its proposed project, the *Living Laboratory*.

This proposed project in the community of City Heights in central San Diego will create a new facility for science and environmental education serving thousands of community members per year. The *Living Laboratory* would be used to facilitate science and conservation education for the entire community. State-of-the-art laboratories would provide hands-on programming in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. All of the learning experiences offered at the *Living Laboratory* would be available to visitors daily and involvement would be provided at no cost. This will help to foster increased scientific and environmental awareness amongst all community members.

The *Living Laboratory* will allow Ocean Discovery Institute to further enhance the professional development activities offered to local teachers. Furthermore, because the facility will be open to all members of the community during after-school and evening hours, it is my belief that a significantly larger group of educators will be able to participate in the professional development opportunities offered.

I would also like to emphasize that the project will use public funding along with a major fund raising campaign. The Ocean Discovery Institute's large donor base will be indispensable as they endeavor to complete this project.

I sincerely hope the California Coastal Conservancy will be able to approve this grant request and I am extremely pleased to express my support for the *Living Laboratory*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Allen".

Tim Allen

Executive Director  
City Heights Educational Collaborative

May 14, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat,


I am happy to endorse the application and proposal of the Ocean Discovery Institute requesting funding support from the California Coastal Conservancy for its Living Lab facility project. The proposed project will create a high quality, new community resource that will serve to educate local schoolchildren, their families, community members and the general public about the environment and conservation.

The Living Lab facility will create a safe area for children to learn about science and nature and to develop leadership skills as the next generation of environmental leaders. The proposed project, located in the gateway of Manzanita Canyon within one of the most degraded portions of watershed located in all of San Diego County, would also includes a large number of habitat restoration components. This restoration will help to transform the urban canyon into new native habitat that can support all the local wildlife and endangered species in the area.

Ocean Discovery Institute also plans to include a green roof for the facility and several garden spaces that will showcase native flora and edible plant species that are reflective of the diverse natural environments within the community.

I am delighted to support this proposal and hope that the California Coastal Conservancy will be able to invest in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Pennington".

Linda Pennington, Project Manager – Project CLEAN  
CCA Member



June 17, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

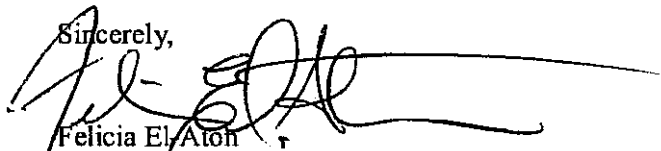
I am pleased to offer my support for Ocean Discovery Institute's proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy for its Living Lab project.

I was excited to learn of Ocean Discovery Institute's plans to create their new Living Lab facility in the community of City Heights. The Living Lab will be a place for science and conservation education, but more importantly it will be a place where people of all ages can go for safe access to open spaces in the community.

I was also excited to hear of all that the facility will have to offer to community members. Community spaces will facilitate opportunities for classes, gatherings, and special events. The outdoor features would connect the community to the natural world and all involvement would be provided at no cost.

I truly believe this project will have a transforming influence on the community of City Heights and the broader San Diego region.

Sincerely,



Felicia El Aton  
Ocean Discovery Institute  
Family Advisory Committee Member

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# Assembly California Legislature



LORI SALDAÑA

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:  
COUNTY AND GERRISTRICTING  
BUDGET AND FINANCIAL  
SPECIAL  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

May 25, 2010

Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am pleased to support the application and proposal of the Ocean Discovery Institute requesting funding support from the California Coastal Conservancy for its Living Lab facility project. The proposed project will create a high quality, new community resource in the 76th Assembly District that will serve as a resource for schoolchildren, their families, local community members and the general public. The proposed project will bring a new center for teaching and learning to City Heights, an under-resourced community in central San Diego.

The Living Lab facility will create a safe welcoming space for children to learn about science and nature and to develop leadership skills as the next generation of scientific and environmental leaders. The proposed project also includes a significant set of habitat restoration components, which will help to transform the urban canyon located at the site into new native habitat that can support wildlife, including local endangered species, as well as wildlife movement.

I am also pleased that Ocean Discovery Institute plans include creating a green roof for the facility and several garden spaces that will showcase native flora and edible plant species that are reflective of the diverse cultures present in City Heights,

I am delighted to support this proposal and hope you will be able to invest in this unique endeavor.

Sincerely,

Lori Saldana  
Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District